AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application, and are marked to show changes.

What is claimed is:

1. (Original). A distributed system for monitoring the resources and events of each of a plurality of networked computers, the system comprising:

    (a)   a first database associated with a first computer, said first database recording both a first data element and a second data element, wherein each of the first and second data elements comprise information about a current state of the first computer at a given time; and

    (b)   a first agent executing on said first computer comparing the first and second data elements in order to assess the occurrence of an exceptional event

2. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second data elements comprise information about a resource of the system.

3. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second data elements comprise information about an application's behavior.

4. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second data elements comprise information about a user's actions.

5. (Original). The system of claim 4 wherein the first and second data elements further comprise information about a system response to the user's actions.

6. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second data elements comprise information about a network.

7. (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the second data element is compared with the first data element before the second data element is stored in the database.

8. (Original). The system of claim 7 wherein the second data element is compared with the first data element in real time.

9. (Original). The system of claim 1 further comprising a second computer agent executing on a second computer.

10. (Original). The system of claim 9 wherein the first agent notifies the second agent of the occurrence of the exceptional event.

11.   (Original). The system of claim 10 wherein the notification is postponed while the first agent is not able to communicate with the second agent.

12.   (Original). The system of claim 10 wherein the notification is postponed until a period of low latency and low utilization of a communications network connecting the first agent and the second agent.

13.   (Original). The system of claim 10 wherein the second agent generates and sends a response to the first agent.

14.   (Original). The system of claim 13 wherein the response comprises instructions to the first agent related to the exceptional event.

15.   (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first agent notifies a human user of the occurrence of the exceptional event.

16.   (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the first agent notifies a server executing on a second computer of the occurrence of the exceptional event.

17.   (Original). The system of claim 16 further comprising a second database located on the second computer storing the notification received from the first agent.

18.   (Original). The system of claim 17 further comprising the server transmitting a response to the agent.

19.   (Original). The system of claim 17 further comprising the server storing the response in the second database.

20.   (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the database comprises a relational database.

21.   (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein the database is selectively pruned to reduce its size.

22-28. (Cancelled).

29.   (Original). A peer-to-peer system for monitoring the status of computers in a computer network, the system comprising:
        a plurality of computer agents, each agent capable of repeatedly storing status information in a database at discrete points in time, each agent further capable of receiving, storing in the database, and responding to queries made from any other agent;
        wherein, each agent determines whether or not its current performance is consistent with its past performance based upon a continuous, real-time analysis of the agent's own database and, in the event that an agent determines that its current performance is inconsistent with its past performance, addresses the inconsistency.

30.   (Original). The system of claim 29, wherein addressing the inconsistency comprises querying a second agent.